

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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R 010043Z DEC 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1258
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 5752

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TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, RP

SUBJ: 31ST UNGA: PLENARY STATEMENT BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE HEAD OF THE STATE OF PHILIPPINES, H.E. MRS. IMELDA
ROMUALDEZ MARCOS, NOVEMBER 29, 1976

H.E. MRS. IMELDA ROMUALDEZ MARCOS, PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HEAD OF STATE OF THE PHILIPPINES
MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN THE UNGA PLENARY, NOVEMBER 29,
1976 (UN DOCUMENT A/31/PV.81):

QUOTE: BEGIN TEXT.

THE PRESIDENT: THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HEAD OF STATE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, HER EXCELLENCY MRS. IMELDA
ROMUALDEZ MARCOS, HAS REQUESTED TO MAKE A STATEMENT. I
INVITE HER EXCELLENCY TO COME TO THE ROSTRUM.

MRS. MARCOS (PHILIPPINES): AT THIS MOMENT OF TRAGEDY AND SORROW
FOR THE PEOPLE OF TURKEY, PERMIT ME, AS THE PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES,
TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND
PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE DISASTROUS
EARTHQUAKES THAT HAVE STRUCK THEIR COUNTRY. OUR GRIEF
SPRINGS NOT ONLY FROM OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH THE TURKISH PEOPLE
BUT ALSO FROM OUR DEEP SENSE OF SOLIDARITY WITH ALL MANKIND.

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MR. PRESIDENT, I AM SINCERELY GRATEFUL TO YOU, AND TO THE

SECRETARY-GENERAL, FOR HAVING MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO
ADDRESS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THIS PLENARY MEETING ON
THE REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE, WHICH HAS JUST BEEN ADOPTED.

MY GOVERNMENT DESIRED TO EMPHASIZE IN THIS MANNER ITS PROFOUND
AND ENDURING INTEREST IN THE REVIEW OF THE CHARTER AND
IN IMPROVING THE WORKINGS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AN UNDER-
TAKING WHICH IT INITIATED WITH OTHER LIKE-MINDED GOVERNMENTS
AND WITH WHICH IT HAS PRESSED FORWARD DESPITE MANY OBJECTIONS,
DOUBTS AND MISGIVINGS.

I AM HAPPY TO NOTE THAT THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAS
PROCEEDED AT AN ACCELERATING PACE AND THAT GOVERNMENTS HAVE
BEEN MAKING CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS AND PROPOSALS. THESE
ARE NO DOUBT VALUABLE AND, IF EVENTUALLY IMPLEMENTED,
SHOULD IMPROVE THE MACHINERY OF THE ORGANIZATION AND MAKE
IT MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF ITS MEMBERS. MY DELEGATION
WILL IN DUE COURSE RESPOND TO THE INVITATION IN THE RESOLUTION
JUST ADOPTED "TO SUBMIT, OR TO BRING UP TO DATE, THEIR
OBSERVATIONS AND PROPOSALS" IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PERTINENT
GENERAL RESOLUTION.

BUT I DO NOT INTEND NOW TO DISCUSS STRUCTURAL CHANGES OR
PROCEDURAL REFORM, IMPORTANT AS THEY MAY BE. INSTEAD,
I SHOULD LIKE TO RECALL AND REAFFIRM THE BASIC PRINCIPLES
OF OUR COLLECTIVITY, THE ETHICS OF OUR HUMANITY.

LAST YEAR, WHEN I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF ADDRESSING THE THIRTIETH
SESSION OF THIS ASSEMBLY IN THE NAME AND ON BEHALF OF
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES,
PRESIDENT MARCOS, I SAID THAT THE PROBLEMS FACING US TODAY
HAD MORAL ROOTS AND THAT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SHOULD
BE BASED ON ETHICAL PRINCIPLES ACCEPTED BY ALL MANKIND. I
WENT ON TO PROPOSE THAT THESE UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLES SHOULD
GUIDE THE ENTIRE RANGE OF THE BEHAVIOR OF NATIONS TOWARDS
ONE ANOTHER.

IF I HAVE SOUGHT TO SPEAK AT THIS LATE STAGE OF THE ASSEMBLY'S
DELIBERATIONS IT IS BECAUSE I FEEL THAT THAT PROPOSAL
HAS GAINED IN URGENCY AND PERTINENCE, FOR A STORM IS
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GATHERING OVER OUR HEADS, WHICHEVER OF THE THREE SO-CALLED
WORLDS WE BELONG TO, A STORM THAT THREATENS TO DESTROY
US ALL, WHATEVER OUR PRESENT CONDITION, IF WE DO NOT RETURN
AND HOLD FAST TO THE ESSENTIALS OF THIS ORGANIZATION, WHICH
WAS FOUNDED IN ALL FAITH AND HOPE ON THE ONENESS OF MAN.

THERE WAS A GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT IN THE CHARTER WHEN IT WAS
WRITTEN IN 1945 THAT NOW SEEMS BEYOND OUR REACH. SOMEHOW,

IN THE PAST 31 YEARS, WE SEEM TO HAVE LOST OUR WAY,
TO HAVE LOST SIGHT OF OUR ORIGINAL OBJECTIVES.

IT IS ALREADY A COMMONPLACE TO SAY THAT WE ARE MORE AND MORE
DIVIDED, DIVIDED INTO MILITARY ALLIANCES, DIVIDED INTO
IDEOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC, RACIAL AND CULTURAL BLOCS,
EACH AND EVERY BLOC BEGETTING A RIVAL BLOC, UNTIL WE HAVE
REACHED THE EXTREMITY OF A BLOC AGAINST ANY BLOC, INTEN-
SIFYING AND MAGNIFYING CONFRONTATION.

EVEN THE VERY PRINCIPLE OF THE EQUALITY AND SELF-DETERMINATION
OF PEOPLES HAS RAISED WINDS OF FEAR AND HATRED, FOR
THE LIQUIDATION OF THE COLONIAL EMPIRES, A PROCESS THAT
IN NOW COMING TO A CLOSE, HAS HAD UNFORESEEN CONSEQUENCES.

MANY OF THE NEW NATIONS THAT HAVE EMERGED INTO INTERNATIONAL
LIFE EAGER TO FULFIL THE EXPECTATIONS OF EMANCIPATION AND
TO EXPLOIT FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT THE NATURAL RESOURCES
RECOVERED FROM ALIEN DOMINION HAVE BEEN THWARTED IN THESE
LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS BY FORCES BEYOND THEIR CONTROL,
AND IN THEIR ANGER AND FRUSTRATION HAVE PITTED THE STRENGTH
OF NUMBERS AGAINST THE PARROGANCE OF WEALTH.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE VERY MAGNITUDE OF THEIR DESTITUTION
HAS MADE THE RICH AND POWERFUL AMONG US FEAR THE LOSS OF
THE POSSESSIONS AND ADVANTAGES AND HAS DRIVEN THEM TO A
SUBTLE BUT NONTHELESS RESOLUTE DEFENCE OF THE OLD ECONOMIC
ORDER.

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MUST IT BE SO, AND WHY IS THIS SO?

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IN THE PURSUIT OF OUR SEPARATE NATIONAL GOALS WE HAVE ALL TOO OFTEN IGNORED THE FUNDAMENTAL ETHICAL PRINCIPLES TO WHICH WE ALL SUBSCRIBE, EVEN IF ONLY SUBCONSCIOUSLY, AT THE BACK OF OUR MINDS. WE HAVE TOO OFTEN FALLEN BACK ON THE OLD SELFISH CONCEPT OF "REASONS OF STATE" TO JUSTIFY WHATEVER ENDS WE SEEK AND HAVE FORGOTTEN THE SIMPLE HUMAN BEING, THE COMMON MAN, FOR WHOM THE STATE EXISTS AND IN WHOSE INTERESTS ALL STATES MUST IN THE LAST AND MOST VALID ANALYSIS INTERACT WITH ONE ANOTHER.

WE SHALL BE TOLD THAT THE UNITED NATIONS, THIS ORGANIZATION, DEALS WITH POLITICAL QUESTIONS, WITH NATIONAL INTERESTS AND THE BALANCE OF FORCES, THAT THE POWERFUL CANNOT BE EXPECTED MEEKLY TO SURRENDER THEIR PRIVILEGED POSITIONS, AND THAT THE WEAK MUST RESIGN THEMSELVES TO THE FATE OF THE WEAK. AND WE SHALL BE TOLD THAT IT IS SIMPLY A QUESTION OF ECONOMICS THAT THE INEFFICIENT MUST PAY THE PRICE OF THEIR INEFFICIENCY; THAT THE IMPROVIDENT MUST SUFFER FOR THE UNCONTROLLED EXPANSION OF THEIR POPULATIONS, FOR THEIR INABILITY TO COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY IN THE FREE MARKETS OF THE WORLD.

BUT I SUBMIT TO THE ASEMBLY IN ALL EARNESTNESS THAT THESE ARE NOT SIMPLY QUESTIONS OF POLITICS AND ECONOMICS THESE ARE MORAL QUESTIONS, THAT IS TO SAY THEY HAVE TO DO NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH THE INTELLIGENCE OR THE WILL ALONE BUT WITH THE CONSCIENCE OF HUMANITY ITSELF. HUMAN BEINGS ALONE HAVE THE FACULTY OF FEELING THAT IT IS UNETHICAL FOR THE POWERFUL TO EXPLOIT THE WEAK. A PRIDE OF LIONS WOULD NEVER ARRIVE AT SUCH AN AWARENESS. THESE EXAMINATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF CONSCIENCE ARE WHAT DISTINGUISH MAN; THEY ARE WHAT RAISE HUMAN BEINGS TO THEIR NOBLE CATEGORY; INDEED, THEY CONSTITUTE THE ESSENCE OF HUMANITY.

IT IS IN THE VERY NATURE OF HUMAN BEINGS TO BE AWARE OF THE RIGHTNESS OR WRONGNESS OF THEIR ACTIONS, TO PASS JUDGEMENT ON THEIR OWN ACTS AND THOSE OF OTHERS, AND TO MAKE THE DECISIONS WE CALL ETHICAL. FOR, INDEED, WHAT WE KNOW AS OR HAVE LEARNED TO CALL ETHICS IS NOTHING MORE THAN OUR CONSCIOUSNESS OF HUMAN VALUES; IT IS NOTHING MORE THAN A SENSE OF OUR HUMANITAS, OUR OWN HUMANITY, FOR TO BE HUMAN IS TO BE MORAL.

IT IS IN THE LIGHT OF THESE REFLECTIONS THAT I EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT, IN THE REVIEW OF THE CHARTER, AND IN PARTICULAR IN CONSIDERING ITS PROVISIONS ON THE PURPOSES

AND PRINCIPLES OF THIS ORGANIZATION, AND IN
THE CHAPTER ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CO-OPERATION,
THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES WILL BE CONSTANTLY BORNE IN MIND:

-THE PRINCIPLE THAT EVERY HUMAN BEING HAS A RIGHT TO LIFE
AND THEREFORE TO THE MEANS TO SUSTAIN LIFE: FOOD, SHELTER,
CLOTHING AND WORK; AND THAT THE OBLIGATION TO SATISFY THIS
RIGHT RESTS PRIMARILY WITH NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, BUT
THAT IT IS SHARED BY THE WHOLE WORLD COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY
BY THE COUNTRIES ENJOYING ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES;

-THE PRINCIPLE THAT IN EXTENDING ASSISTANCE IN THE FULFILMENT
OF THAT OBLIGATION GOVERNMENTS SHALL REFRAIM FROM SEEKING IN
EXCHANGE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OR ANY OTHER CONCESSIONS AGAINST
THE WILL OF THE BENEFICIARIES OR IN DETRIMENT OF THEIR
SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE;

-THE PRINCIPLE THAT ECONOMIC AGGRESSION IS AS MUCH A BREACH
OF THE PEACE AND IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE CHARTER AS ANY
OTHER FORM OF AGGRESSION, AND THAT THERE IS A CONSEQUENT
NEED FOR EFFECTIVE COLLECTIVE MEASURES FOR ITS PREVENTION
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AND REMOVAL;

-THE PRINCIPLE THAT ANY FORM OF RACISM OR RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
IS A DENIAL OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS AND
A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE;

-THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF RELIGION AS
A UNIFYING FORCE IN THE SERVICE OF MANKIND SHOULD BE RECOVERED,
RESTORED AND REINFORCED;

-THE PRINCIPLE THAT ALL PEOPLES AND COMMUNITIES IN THEIR
SEARCH FOR IDENTITY HAVE PRIOR RIGHT TO THE CULTURAL TREASURES
INHERITED FROM THEIR OWN PAST;

-THE PRINCIPLE THAT THIS EARTH -- ITS LANDS, ITS SEAS, ITS
SKIES -- IS THE COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND AND THAT, WHILE
EACH SOVEREIGN NATION HAS THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO THE EN-
JOYMENT OF ITS NATURAL PATRIMONY, THERE SHOULD BE INTERNATIONAL
CO-OPERATION IN PREVENTING POLLUTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AND IN PROTECTING THE ECOLOGY;

-THE PRINCIPLE THAT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SHOULD BENEFIT
ALL MANKIND AND THAT ITS TRANSFER ON JUST TERMS TO DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES SHOULD BE FACILITATED;

-THE PRINCIPLE THAT MASS COMMUNICATION MEDIA SHOULD BE
USED TO DISSEMINATE THE TRUTH, TO EDUCATE AND TO PROMOTE

UNDERSTANDING AND CONSTRUCTIVE CO-OPERATION AMONG NATIONS;

-THE PRINCIPLE THAT OUTER SPACE -- INDEED, THE COSMOS --
IS BEYOND THE DOMINION AND JURISDICTION OF ANY STATE OR GROUP
OF STATES;

- THE PRINCIPLE THAT ALL STATES PLEDGE TO PROMOTE AND ACHIEVE
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT AS THE BEST SECURITY AGAINST
THE HOLOCAUST OF WAR, AND THAT THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC
RESOURCES THUS SAVED SHOULD BE USED IN GREAT MEASURE TO
PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO DISADVANTAGED NATIONS.

END TEXT. UNQUOTE.

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